

## Memo

To: Mayor Sam Bass

From: Skagway ad hoc Committee on Marine Highway

Date: April 12, 2024

Subject: Notes from Meeting on 4/9/24

Dear Mayor Bass:

Our meeting convened at 4pm on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in Assembly Chambers. All committee members were present including Mike Korsmo, Jason Roman, Jan Wrentmore and Dennis Bousson (alternate.)

Present in the Assembly Chambers were Assemblypersons Deb Potter and Orion Hansen as well as Kaitlyn Jared of S.E. Conference and Tourism Director Jaime Bricker.

**Hear Citizen's Present:** Jaime Bricker addressed the importance of the Alaska Marine Highway Service (AMHS) providing adequate service for community events. She also asked that the Municipality request that AMHS provide adequate notice to passengers regarding the type of vessel when alternative service is provided by Allen Marine. Some passengers with mobility issues had difficulty boarding the catamaran during a recent trip.

**Electric shuttle ferry update:** Also during Hear Citizens Present, Kaitlyn Jared gave a report updating the committee on the AMHS low/no emissions electric shuttle ferry project. The project has been delayed by at least a year. However, the electric shuttle ferry was one of the AMHS projects approved in the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) for the use of Toll Credits (passenger fees) to meet state match requirements. It has not yet been determined which communities will be serviced by the shuttle.

**Changes to Summer and Fall Ferry Schedule:** It was announced in March that the MV LeConte would be held in lay-up longer than expected for additional repair. Skagway Mayor Sam Bass corresponded with officials at AMHS inquiring as to the impact this would have on service to Skagway in our busy summer and fall season. The response received from AMHS schedulers stated that the LeConte is due back on May 15 and the Hubbard will cover service until May 14. The Hubbard is anticipated to return to service on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. No service gaps during the fall and winter schedule are anticipated due to the LeConte/Hubbard overhauls.

**Ferry Float Status:** The history of the Skagway ferry float was reviewed as follows:

- The float was built in 1980
- In 1992, repairs were made to the concrete deck service
- In 2014, the dock sank and was subsequently re-floated



Photo of Skagway Ferry Float after sinking in April 2014

In the ten years since the float sank, no significant repairs have been undertaken. Money for repair and replacement has been in and out of the STIP. There have been discussions between the Municipality and AMHS regarding ownership of 5/12ths of the dock versus usage rights of 5/12ths. It was pointed out that historically AMHS has resisted co-ownership of shore-side facilities around the state.

The current condition of the dock was summarized as follows:

- Fenders and bull rails have been lost
- Significant spalling across the concrete deck surface
- Exposure of structural tendons

**Recommendation:** It is the recommendation of the committee that the Municipality request from AMHS the most recent inspection report or condition survey of the dock so that the structural integrity of the interior of the float can be determined. The following pictures of the current condition of the float were provided by committee members:



